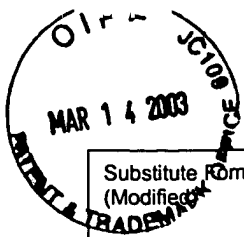




A DOCPHOENIX



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|--|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified) | U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office | Attorney's Docket No. 10559-445001 | Application No. 09/878,123 |
| Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR §1.98(b)) | | Applicant Takashi Kumamoto et al. | |
| | | Filing Date June 8, 2001 | Group Art Unit 2827 |

| U.S. Patent Documents | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document Number | Publication Date | Patentee | Class | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate |
| | AA | 5,450,283 | 09/12/95 | Lin et al. | | | |
| | AB | 5,784,261 | 07/21/98 | Pedder | | | |
| | AC | 5,895,229 | 04/20/99 | Carney et al. | | | |
| | AD | 5,981,314 | 11/09/99 | Glenn et al. | | | |
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| | AF | 6,038,136 | 03/14/00 | Weber | | | |
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| | AJ | 6,344,162 B1 | 02/05/02 | Miyajima | | | |
| | AK | US 2002 0109241 A1 | 08/15/02 | Kumamoto et al. | | | |
| | AL | US 2002 0114144 A1 | 08/22/02 | Kumamoto et al. | | | |

| Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document Number | Publication Date | Country or Patent Office | Class | Subclass | Translation | |
| | | | | | | | Yes | No |
| | AM | EP 0 971 401 A2 | 01/12/00 | EP | | | | |
| | AN | GB 2 297 652 A | 08/07/96 | GB | | | | |
| | AO | JP 2000 150760 A | 05/30/00 | JP | | | | |
| | AP | JP 11-195742 A | 07/21/99 | JP | | | | |
| | AQ | JP 59-208756 A | 11/27/84 | JP | | | | |

| Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication) | | |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document |
| | AR | |
| | AS | |
| | AT | |

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
|--------------------|-----------------|

EXAMINER: Initials citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference P9482XPCT | FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below. | |
| International application No. PCT/US 02/ 17882 | International filing date (day/month/year) 06/06/2002 | (Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 08/06/2001 |
| Applicant INTEL CORPORATION | | |

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 04 sheets.
 It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

contained in the international application in written form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

as suggested by the applicant.

because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

because this figure better characterizes the invention.

04

None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 02/17882

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H01L21/48 H01L23/498 H01L21/56

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H01L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

PAJ, EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category ° | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|--|
| X | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 12, 29 October 1999 (1999-10-29) -& JP 11 195742 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRON CORP), 21 July 1999 (1999-07-21) abstract | 1-3, 5, 9, 11-13, 16, 17, 19-22, 24-30 |
| Y | abstract | 1-5, 9-13, 16-22, 24-30 |
| Y | ----- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 08, 6 October 2000 (2000-10-06) -& JP 2000 150760 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY CORP), 30 May 2000 (2000-05-30) abstract | 1-5, 9-13, 16-22, 24-30 |
| | ----- | |
| | -/-- | |

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

4 October 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

22/10/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Edmeades, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 02/17882

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|------------------------|
| A | US 6 049 122 A (YONEDA YOSHIHIRO) 11 April 2000 (2000-04-11) column 1, line 32 -column 2, line 51; figures 10-13 --- | 6-8, 19, 20, 24, 28 |
| X | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 009, no. 069 (E-305), 29 March 1985 (1985-03-29) -& JP 59 208756 A (SONY KK), 27 November 1984 (1984-11-27) abstract --- | 1, 2 |
| A | GB 2 297 652 A (PLESSEY SEMICONDUCTORS LTD) 7 August 1996 (1996-08-07) page 2, line 26 -page 3, line 24; figure 1 --- | 1-30 |
| A | EP 0 971 401 A (APIC YAMADA CORP) 12 January 2000 (2000-01-12) column 5, line 31-47; figure 1 --- | 14 |
| A | US 5 998 243 A (NAKAZAWA TAKAHITO ET AL) 7 December 1999 (1999-12-07) column 5, line 56 -column 6, line 25 ----- | 15 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 02/17882

| Patent document cited in search report | A | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
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| US 6049122 | A | 11-04-2000 | JP 11186322 A | 09-07-1999 |
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